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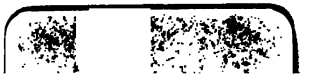

A FEW ANECDOTES AND OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO OLIVER CROMWELL AND HIS FAMILY;

Serving to rectify ſeveral Errors concerning Him, publiſhed by

NICOLAUS COMNENUS PAPADOPOLI,

In his

HISTORIA GYMNASII PATAVINI.

By a MEMBER of the ROYAL SOCIETY, and of the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, of LONDON.

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A FEW

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RELATING TO

OLIVER CROMWELL

AND HIS

FAMILY.

NICOLAUS COMNENUS PAPADOPOLI, in his Hiſtoria Gymnaſii Patavini (Venetiis 1726,) Tom. 2. Lib. 2. cap. 50. pa. 306, 307. ſect. 241. ſub anno 1658, aſſerts "That Oliver Cromwell "(the Protector) was a Member of that Univer-"ſity in the Year 1618:" And He refers to a Liſt of the Engliſh Students of that Univerſity, and to Oliver's Coat of Arms painted in the Piazzas of it,

55. d. 70.

liſh Writers: It is ſufficient to ſpecifie two of the lateſt, *viz.* the New General Biographical Dictionary (Edit. 1761.) Vol. 3. pa. 516, 517, 518. Title, "Cromwell;" and Mr. Harris's Life of Oliver Cromwell (publiſhed in 1762) pa. 3. to 9.

I propoſe to confirm the *Improbability*, I might almoſt have ſaid the *Impoſſibility* of Oliver's long Travels during theſe particular ſeven Years, by a Proof from the REGISTER of St. John's Pariſh in *Huntingdon*, including the ſame ſpecific Years; a Copy of which Regiſter (as far as it relates to the Cromwells) I have obtained from Huntingdon, by the favor of a worthy and curious Gentleman of that Place, Mr. Edward Ferrar; who (by the way) obſerves that they have no Traces, in that Neighbourhood, of Oliver's having led a diſſolute Life.

This Extract from the Regiſter of St. John's Pariſh in Huntingdon, which Mr. Ferrar has been ſo obliging as to ſend me, includes Six of the Family, *prior* to the Protector Himſelf: But I will begin with Him, at preſent.

25th April 1599. Oliverius, filius Roberti Cromwell Gen. et Eliz. uxoris ejus, natus 25. April 1599. et bapt. 29.

22d February 1600. Margaret Cromwell, Daughter of Robert and Elizabeth.

2d January

2d January 1602. Ann Cromwell, Daughter of Robert and Elizabeth.

19th January 1605. Jane Cromwell, Daughter of Robert and Elizabeth.

18th January 1608. Robert Cromwell, Son of Robert and Elizabeth.

4th April 1609. Robert Cromwell *buried.*

2d June 1611. Joan Cromwell *married* to Mr. William Baker.

20th June 1617. Margaret Cromwell *married* to Mr. Valentine Walton.

Theſe that follow are (as I take it) the Protector's own Children.

8th October 1621. Robert Cromwell, Son of Oliver, Eſq;

6th February 1622. Oliver Cromwell, Son of Oliver, Gent.

5th Auguſt 1624. Bridget Cromwell, Daughter of Oliver, Eſq;

4th October 1626. Richard Cromwell, Son of Mr. Oliver.

20th January 1627. Henry Cromwell, Son of Oliver, Eſq;

2d July 1629. Eliz. Cromwell, Daughter of Oliver, Eſq;

8th January 1631. James Cromwell, Son of Oliver.

9th February 1636. Mary Cromwell, Daughter of Oliver, Gent.

Note; The three firſt of theſe eight were born *before* the Death of King James the firſt.

I flatter Myſelf, that it now ſtands ſufficiently proved "That Oliver Cromwell, the *Protector*, did "*not* reſide in *Italy*, but in *England*, during the laſt "7 Years of the Reign of King James the firſt."

Papadopoli muſt conſequently be under a groſs Miſtake concerning the IDENTITY of the Perſon, at leaſt. However his Proofs do ſeem to ſhew "that "*ſome* Perſon of the *ſame Name* was at Padua at "that Time."

I was very deſirous to diſcover *what* Oliver Cromwell This was; and to that End, I made Inquiry after the Regiſter of *Hinchinbrooke*, where Old Sir Oliver Cromwell, the elder Brother of the Protector's Father, lived: But I am informed "that there "is * no Regiſter there."

* It is extraparochial.

This Old Sir Oliver ſold his Eſtate, in his own Life-time, to the Anceſtor of the now Earl of Sandwich: And I am told "that He *left no Children*". In his old Age, He lived at Ramſey: And Sir Philip Warwick * viſited Him there.

† Biogr. Dict. Pa. 521.

There

There was an *Oliver Cromwell Eſquire* of *Huntingdon*, who was a married Man in 1586, and till 1594: For in the Regiſter of St. John's Pariſh in Huntingdon it appears "that He had three Chil-"dren born there within that Space of Time;" viz.

25th Auguſt 1586. Henry Cromwell, Son of Oliver Eſq;
14th May 1589. John Cromwell, Son of Oliver and Elizabeth.
15th May 1594. Catharine Cromwell, Daughter of Oliver Eſq;

It does not appear *Who* this Oliver Cromwell *Eſquire* was. He might be Sir Oliver Himſelf (before He was made a Knight;) Who might have then reſided at * Huntingdon; and Who might have had ſeveral Children born, and even grown up, though None of them might live long enough to ſurvive Him. Sir Oliver was of a ſufficient Age of Life to be married, and have Children in thoſe reſpective Years: For his younger Brother, Robert, (the Protector's Father) was married and had a Daughter in 1593. One of his Sons might have been named *Oliver*; and would probably have been of a proper Age for ſtudying at Padua and making the Tour of Italy, between the Years 1618 and 1625.

* Hinchinbrooke is within a Mile of Huntingdon.

Though it might, in *bare Poſſibility*, have happened that Sir Oliver Himſelf did ſo, yet it is *very unlikely*, both from his Age of Life, (which could not then be leſs than ſixty or thereabouts,) and from his being ſettled at Hinchinbrooke long before that Time; where He gave King King James the Firſt, juſt after his Acceſſion to the Throne of England, the grandeſt Entertainment that had been given to a King by a Subject. In Reality, it can hardly be thought that this *Sir Oliver* ſhould be the Perſon who did not return from his Travels till the Year in which King James died and King Charles came to the Crown.

What *Other* Oliver Cromwell might do ſo, remains quite in the Dark.

There appear only three other Cromwells, in my Extract from the beforementioned Regiſter, Who were born *before* the Protector; (and they ſeem to have been an elder Brother and two Siſters of the Protector:) viz.

14th October 1593. Elizabeth Cromwell, Daughter of Robert and Elizabeth.

13th Auguſt 1595. Henry Cromwell, Son of Robert and Elizabeth.

7th February 1596. Catharine Cromwell, Daughter of Robert and Elizabeth.

I have

I have alledged One Fact, very material to the Point in queſtion, namely, " That Oliver Cromwell, " the Protector, was *married* before the Age of " twenty-two:" Which, it may be ſaid, I have not formally and directly proved. But I have ſhewn " that He had a Son (* Robert) born upon the " 8th of October 1621:" Which amounts to a ſufficient *conſequential* Proof " that the Father was a " *Married Man* ſome conſiderable Time before the " 25th of the preceding April". And " that He was " not two and twenty *till* the 25th of April 1621," is moſt clearly manifeſt from the Huntingdon Regiſter, which *aſcertains* his *Birth* to have been upon the 25th of April 1599.

N. B. This Regiſter *ſettles the* † *Doubt* amongſt our Hiſtorians, " Whether he was born upon the " ‡ 24th *or* upon the ‖ 25th of that Month."

Inner Temple,
24th June 1763.

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* This Robert died in his Infancy: And ſo likewiſe did his next Brother Oliver.

† See Biogr. Dict. Vol. 3. pa. 516.

‡ According to Mr. Harris, pa. 1.

‖ So the Generality of Writers have ſaid.

P. S.

P. S. I will add, for the Curiosity of such as attend to Heraldry, a Note of the Ensigns Armorial painted upon the Escutcheons used at the Protector's Funeral: viz. Impaled Baron and Femme, First, for Himself, Quarterly, 1st and 4th Argent, a Cross Gules (for England;) 2d Azure, a Saltire Argent (for Scotland;) 3d Azure, a Harp Or, stringed Argent (for Ireland;) In an Escutcheon of Pretence, Sable, a Lyon rampant Argent, (for his paternal Coat;) And, Secondly, for his Wife, Sable, 3 Leopards passant, in Pale, Or, spotted of the first. * The Crown over the Escutcheon was composed of Crosses Patonce and Leaves, (like that of the Prince of Wales;) with an Arch joining crossways over the red Cap of Velvet, but not rising so high as the Regal Crown.

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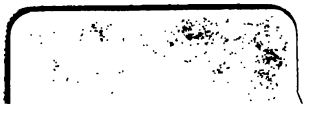
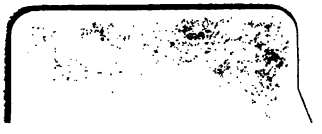
* Note: He would not assume the Arms of France; being in strict Alliance with that Crown.

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